

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-8: (Cancelled).

Claim 9: (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving ~~from a control unit~~ at a mobile hand-held device of a plurality of mobile hand-held devices; programming information including an electronic programming guide (EPG) via a wireless connection ~~from a control unit~~, wherein interactions received at the mobile hand-held device ~~is~~ are transmitted to at least one other mobile hand-held device of the plurality of mobile hand-held devices;

receiving, at the mobile hand-held device, a selection of a program from the EPG, wherein the programming information is displayed on a display of the mobile hand-held device;

transmitting the selection of the program to the control unit;

receiving, subsequent to the selection of the program from the EPG, a signal from the control unit indicating a beginning of an interactive ~~function~~ application during the selected program; and

in response to the signal, providing a visual indication ~~ing~~, through the mobile hand-held device, of an availability of the interactive function ~~application~~.

Claim 10: (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein providing a visual indication of indicating the availability of the interactive function ~~application~~ includes displaying an indicator on a display of the mobile hand-held device.

Claim 11: (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein providing a visual indication of indicating the availability of the interactive function ~~application~~ includes changing one or more background colors of the display of the mobile hand-held device to indicate the availability of the interactive ~~function~~ application.

Claim 12: (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein providing a visual indication of indicating the availability of the interactive function ~~application~~ includes at least

one button of the mobile hand-held device flashing to indicate the availability of the interactive ~~function~~application.

Claim 13: (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the mobile hand-held device is a personal digital assistant.

Claim 14: (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the mobile hand-held device is a web phone.

Claim 15: (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, ~~further comprising providing an additional indication of wherein indicating the availability of the interactive function~~application ~~includes including generating a sound generated by the mobile hand-held device.~~

Claim 16: (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein ~~indicating providing a visual indication of the availability of the interactive function~~application ~~includes illuminating a section of the mobile hand-held device other than the display of the mobile hand-held device.~~

Claim 17: (Currently Amended) A tangible machine readable medium having stored thereon a set of instructions, ~~which when executed cause a system to perform a method comprising for:~~

receiving, at a mobile hand-held device of a plurality of mobile hand-held devices, programming information including an electronic programming guide (EPG) via a wireless connection from a control unit, wherein interactions received at the mobile hand-held device is transmitted to at least one other mobile hand-held device of the plurality of mobile hand-held devices;

receiving, at the mobile hand-held device, a selection of a program from the EPG, wherein the programming information is displayed on a display of the mobile hand-held device;

transmitting the selection of the program to the control unit;

receiving, subsequent to the selection of the program from the EPG, a signal from the control unit indicating a beginning of an interactive ~~function~~application during the selected program; and

in response to the signal, ~~indicating~~providing a visual indication, through the mobile hand-held device, ~~of an availability of the interactive function~~application.

Claim 18: (Currently Amended) The tangible machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein indicating the availability of the interactive ~~function~~application includes displaying an indicator on a display of the mobile hand-held device.

Claim 19: (Currently Amended) The tangible machine readable medium of claim 18, wherein indicating the availability of the interactive ~~function~~application includes changing one or more background colors of the display of the mobile hand-held device.

Claim 20: (Currently Amended) The tangible machine readable medium of claim 18, wherein indicating the availability of the interactive ~~function~~application includes illumination of at least one button of the mobile hand-held device ~~flashing~~.

Claim 21: (Currently Amended) The tangible machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein the mobile hand-held device is a personal digital assistant.

Claim 22: (Currently Amended) The tangible machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein the mobile hand-held device is a web phone.

Claim 23: (Currently Amended) The tangible machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein indicating the availability of the interactive ~~function~~application includes generating a sound by the mobile hand-held device to indicate the availability of the interactive ~~function~~application.

Claim 24: (Currently Amended) The tangible machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein indicating the availability of the interactive ~~function~~application includes illuminating a section of the mobile hand-held device other than the display ~~to indicate the availability of the interactive function~~.

Claim 25: (Currently Amended) The tangible machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein indicating the availability of the interactive ~~function-application~~ is performed during a display of the program on a display separate from the plurality of mobile hand-held devices.

Claim 26: (Currently Amended) The tangible machine readable medium of claim 25, wherein whether an indication of the availability of the interactive ~~function-application~~ is provided to the display separate from the plurality of hand-held devices is configurable through the mobile hand-held device.

Claim 27: (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein at least one of the interactions received at the mobile hand-held device includes user comments.

Claim 28: (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the signal is received after a start of the selected program.

Claim 29: (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the interactive application is not available prior to the beginning of the interactive application.

Claim 30: (New) The tangible machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein the interactive application is not available prior to the beginning of the interactive application.

Claim 31: (New) An apparatus comprising:  
a processor; and  
memory storing computer readable instructions that when executed, cause the apparatus to:

receive programming information including an electronic programming guide (EPG) via a wireless connection from a control unit, wherein interactions received at the apparatus is transmitted to at least one other apparatus of a plurality of apparatuses associated with the control unit;

receiving a selection of a program from the EPG, wherein the programming information is displayed on a display of the apparatus;

transmitting the selection of the program to the control unit;  
receiving, subsequent to the selection of the program from the EPG, a signal from the control unit indicating a beginning of an interactive application during the selected program; and  
in response to the signal, providing a visual indication of an availability of the interactive application.

Claim 32: (New) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein indicating the availability of the interactive application is performed during a display of the program on a display separate from the plurality of mobile hand-held devices.

Claim 33: (New) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein whether the visual indication of the availability of the interactive application is provided to the display separate from the plurality of apparatuses devices is configurable through the apparatus.

Claim 34: (New) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the apparatus comprises a mobile hand-held device.

Claim 35: (New) A method comprising:

receiving, at a control device, a signal from a programming service provider, the signal indicating an availability of an interactive service;

determining, by the control device, whether an alert indicating the availability of the interactive service is to be transmitted to a first display based on input from a mobile device separate from the first display; and

in response to determining that the alert is not to be transmitted to the first display, transmitting the alert to a second display of the mobile device without providing the alert to the first display.

Claim 36: (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the interactive service includes an interactive application and wherein the interactive service is not available prior to receipt of the signal.

Claim 37: (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the first display is included in a television.

Claim 38: (New) The method of claim 35, further comprising:  
prior to determining whether the alert indicating the availability of the interactive service is to be sent to the first display, receiving a command from the mobile device deactivating alerts to the first display.

Claim 39: (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the alert is transmitted to a third display of a second mobile device.

Claim 40: (New) An apparatus comprising:  
a processor; and  
memory storing computer readable instructions that, when executed, cause the apparatus to:  
receive a signal from a programming service provider, the signal indicating an availability of an interactive service;  
determine whether an alert indicating the availability of the interactive service is to be transmitted to a first display based on input from a mobile device separate from the first display; and  
in response to determining that the alert is not to be transmitted to the first display, transmit the alert to a second display of the mobile device without providing the alert to the first display.

Claim 41: (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the interactive service includes an interactive application and wherein the interactive service is not available prior to receipt of the signal.

Claim 42: (New) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the computer readable instructions, when executed, further cause the apparatus to:

receive a command from the mobile device deactivating alerts to the first display prior to determining whether the alert indicating the availability of the interactive service is to be sent to the first display.